



JANUARY 2006

US IOTWS Program Update

U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program
from advanced technologies to resilient communities

Second Regional Coordination Meeting on Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System

January 30-31, 2006. Bangkok, Thailand

USAID hosted its second US IOTWS Program Coordination Workshop in Bangkok to identify partnership opportunities with other donor and NGO organizations involved in developing the IOTWS. Building on other recent international meetings, most notably the Intergovernmental Coordination Group's meeting in Hyderabad in December (ICG/IOTWS-II), this event focused exclusively on national and local level capacity building challenges for tsunami and multi-hazard warning systems. Over 60 representatives attended from leading U.S. federal agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors, and NGOs involved in developing tsunami warning systems. More information on the event is available at www.iotws.org.

NOAA Issues Pacific Tsunami Information Bulletin for Indian Ocean 14 Minutes after Earthquake Detected in the Banda Sea

January 27, 2006. Ewa Beach, Hawaii

As part of its continued support to monitor earthquakes and possible tsunamis for the Indian Ocean, NOAA's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) issued a bulletin after a 7.6 magnitude earthquake was detected in the Banda Sea (Indonesia) on January 27, 2006. Because the event was deep inside the earth, there was no threat of a tsunami and the bulletin language reflects that evaluation. The PTWC also immediately advised the region's governments of the event and of "no tsunami threat."

US Scientist Conducts Training in Bangkok to Help Identify Tsunami Hazards

January 10-12, 2006. Bangkok, Thailand

Through the US IOTWS Program, the U.S. Geological Survey conducted training for scientists and engineers on using coastal geology to identify and define tsunami hazards. The training took place on January 10-12, 2006 at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), and Chulalongkorn University. More than 200 persons attended the training. In related meetings, USGS planned geology field work with students and faculty at AIT and Chulalongkorn. As part of the US IOTWS Program, USGS will lead a training exchange to Chile for geologists from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.



USGS geologist Brian Atwater lectures on tsunami geology at the Asian Institute of Technology, January 10, 2006.

Sri Lanka to Incorporate Incident Command System (ICS) as part of National Warning System

Colombo, Sri Lanka

As a result of a USAID-sponsored brainstorming session with government and NGO representatives in Sri Lanka on January 11-12, 2006, the government has agreed to take steps to adopt ICS as a critical component of its disaster management programs, including tsunami early warning. ICS is an all-hazards approach now widely adopted in the U.S. to rapidly establish clear and effective command and coordination authority in handling emergency situations. As part of the US IOTWS Program, emergency management experts from the USDA Forest Service, where ICS originated 30 years ago, and from the Indian Government, which adopted ICS through another USAID program starting in 2002, facilitated the discussion. They described the fundamentals of ICS and conducted a planning exercise with stakeholders to develop the roadmap for integrating ICS into Sri Lanka's disaster response system. The workshop will be followed by a series of train-the-trainer programs, simulation exercises and a regional workshop to share the ICS experience in the region.

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

International Training of Earthquake and Tsunami Geology

Santiago, Chile, Jan 27 - Feb 17, 2006

For more information, contact: Brian Atwater, USGS, atwater@usgs.gov.

Incident Command System Training – Sri Lanka

March 27-31, 2006. Colombo.

For more information, contact: Deanne Shulman, USDA/FS, dshulman@fs.fed.us.

Application of Seismology to Tsunami Detection and Alert Systems – Sri Lanka

April 3-7, 2006. Colombo.

For more information, contact: Shane Detweiler, USGS, shane@usgs.gov.

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

USAID Workshop on Lessons Learned in Recovery: Post-Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation for Sustainable Coastal Development

February 15-17, 2006. Bangkok, Thailand - Asian Institute of Technology

For more information, contact: Amrit Bart, Asian Institute of Technology, bart@ait.ac.th.

IOC/WESTPAC International Workshop on Post-Disaster Assessment and Monitoring of Coastal Ecosystems, Biological and Cultural Diversity in the Indian Ocean and Asian Waters

February 20-24, 2006. Phuket, Thailand

<http://westpac.unesco.org>

About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an “end-to-end” approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit www.iotws.org.

